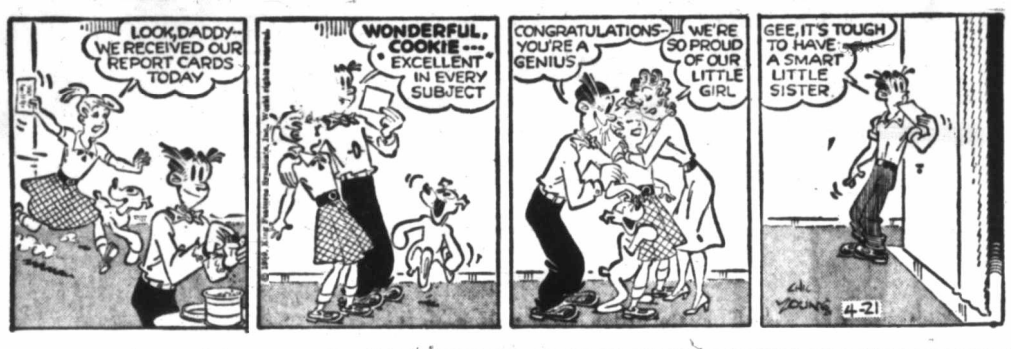
SKY MASTERS

JUDGE PARKER

BLONDIE

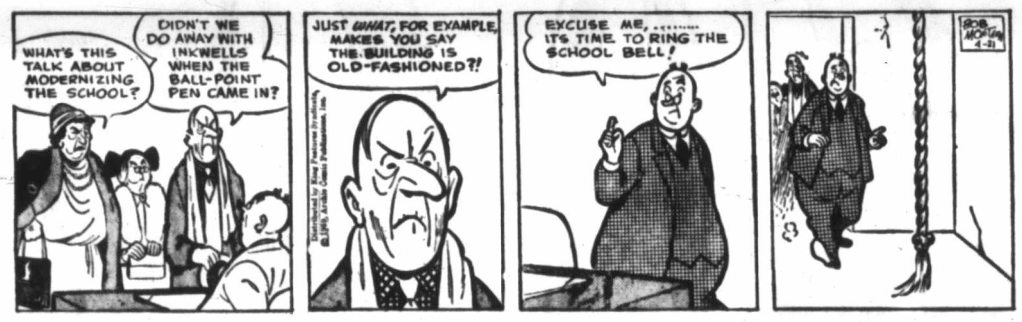


BEN BOLT

LIL ABNER

REX MORGAN

ARCHIE



JULIE JONES

POGO

RIP KIRBY

Garden Notes

Target: Currants

By M. V. CHESNUT, FRHS

Some garden pests are like scarlet fever or mumps—you may get them, but chances are you won't. Others are more like the virus of the common cold—they're around all the time, and you're almost sure to get them unless you do something about it first.

Among these ever-present pests, I'd include the greenfly, carrot fly, onion maggot, flea beetle, peach leaf-curl and the currant fruit fly. This last pest is becoming so common hereabouts that it is almost impossible to grow clean currants or gooseberries unless preventive measures are taken.

The bushes appear to be growing strongly. They blossom freely in the spring and set a heavy crop of fruit, but when the time comes for picking the berries, every single currant or gooseberry has a worm in it.

★ ★ ★

Several of my readers have told me they intend to grub up their bushes if they get one more year of maggoty fruit. This would be a shame, for the situation is fairly easy to control once the habits of the pest are known and understood, and it isn't at all hard to grow a bumper crop of clean fruit.

The culprit in this case is the currant fruit fly, an insect about the size of a small housefly, but yellow in color. Right now these saboteurs are hibernating in the soil under your bushes, where the wormy fruit fell last summer. They will start emerging soon now, and will spend about 10 days in the serious business of courtship and mating.

The actual attack upon our currant and gooseberry bushes takes place about the time the lilacs are starting to bloom. At this time, the blossoms on our fruit bushes are almost finished, and the petals are falling freely to the ground.

★ ★ ★

Mama Fruit Fly sharpens up her hypodermic egg-laying dingus, uses it to puncture a tiny green berry, pulls the handle and squirts an egg deep into the heart of the fruit. Working busily from sunup to sundown, she can inject thousands of embryo currants or gooseberries without ever going back to Pappy Fruit Fly to pick up another load of eggs.

The eggs hatch out in about a week, and the tiny new-born maggot starts immediately to feed upon the surrounding tissues of the berry. He lives there happily, secure and protected from any sprays or dusts, until the berry falls to the ground, whereupon he digs himself in and pupates until the following spring, when the cycle repeats itself.

What can we do about it? I favor a two-pronged attack, carefully timed to do Mr. and Mrs. Fruit Fly a bit of no good.

First, I use a good soil insecticide, working it into the top two inches of soil under the bushes. For this you can take your choice of aldrin, chlordane dust, cutworm dust or bulb and soil dust, and its purpose is to catch a lot of the flies as they emerge from the pupa, and before their biological urge fills them full of maggot eggs. This soil dust can go in now, and the sooner the better.

Then, for any of the flies which may get past our first line of defence, or which may infiltrate from our neighbor's garden, we can set up a booby trap on the bushes themselves. We can coat the leaves and fruit with knockout drops so that when Mrs. Fruit Fly sits down on a berry, she bumps herself off automatically.

★ ★ ★

For this spraying, I favor Malathion, one tablespoonful for each gallon of water, with a little Surfactant in it to make it stick.

The timing of this spray is all-important, and it must go on when about three-quarters of the blossom petals have fallen. This treatment is worse than useless if you miss the boat in your timing, for you'll knock off a lot of useful pollinating insects if you spray too soon, and of course no spray can reach the egg or maggot once it is inside the developing berry.

A similar spray should follow 10 days later to catch any Johnny-come-latelies among the fruit flies.

Conversation Piece

By Rudolf Flesch

A Hit in Spite of Itself

My wife and I went to the theatre the other night and saw an inadvertent hit, "Majority of One," written by Leonard Spigelgass, an old Hollywood hand.

Let me explain what I mean by an inadvertent hit. What happened was this. Mr. Spigelgass, who spent many years doing highly professional carpentry work in Hollywood, finally felt the irresistible urge to go on to higher things.

Why not write a Broadway play that would influence people? Why not give a helping hand to democracy, international peace, the fight against race prejudice and a few other worthy causes? Why not put the full strength of Spigelgass talents at the disposal of the forces for good in this world?

★ ★ ★

Mr. Spigelgass rolled up his sleeves, put a brand new ribbon in his typewriter and proceeded to write a play that had everything in it—international understanding, anti-war speeches, suggestions on how to negotiate economic treaties with underdeveloped nations, a "Reader's Digest" version of Zen Buddhism and a plug or two for the United Nations. He then signed up producer Dore Schary and everything was set for a fine, upper-middle-brow prestige play—in other words, a flop.

But something happened. As I said, Spigelgass is an old hand. So is Dore Schary, who also has many years of Hollywood behind him. As the two set out to put the play in shape, they obviously couldn't help themselves. The middle-aged Brooklyn lady who is in the centre of things became more and more Jewish. The middle-aged Japanese millionaire who is the other half of the romantic couple grew less and less Japanese until not much more was left than a couple of mildly-slanted eyebrows.

★ ★ ★

Finally the day came when Spigelgass and Schary were ready for casting. The Japanese industrialist was easy. They quickly settled on Sir Cedric Hardwicke, the image of the upper-class Englishman, who clearly had just the degree of exotic appeal a Broadway audience would go for.

Mrs. Jacoby from Brooklyn was harder to cast. For weeks and weeks Spigelgass and Schary searched for a sufficiently non-Jewish actress to add just the proper touch until at last they had a brainstorm. Why not sign up Gertrude "Molly Goldberg" Berg in spite of the fact that she was Jewish?

★ ★ ★

The rest is history. "Majority of One" is now established as a solid sentimental hit, serving up the Brooklyn-Tokyo romance with exactly the right amount of schmaltz, and audiences lapping it up night after sold-out night.

They sit through the little sermons on race prejudice with polite patience and roll in the aisles whenever Gertrude Berg lifts her enormously articulate eyebrows or excitedly covers her cheek with her hand.

Spigelgass and Schary didn't plan it that way, but I bet they are happy now.

Hollywood Today

By Sheilah Graham

Bette Davis to Retire

HOLLYWOOD (NANA)—**Bette Davies**, with two unreleased movies—"John Paul Jones" and "The Scapegoat"—doesn't expect to be making any further films. She will concentrate on occasional television appearances, and on her family. For my money, Bette could star in a TV series every day of the week.

Current plans call for **Frank Sinatra** to wear a goatee for his role in "Never So Few." No!! Beards are boring even on the best of faces.

★ ★ ★

The flame is not quite extinguished from the **Anna Maria Alberghetti - Buddy Bregman** fire. Some of their friends say they will elope.

★ ★ ★

Walt Disney's new star, English **Janet Munro**, has been loaned out to England's rock-'n'-roller, **Tommy Steele**, for his million-dollar film musical, "Tommy the Toreador," to be made in Spain.

Winning Contract

By SCHENCKEN AND FREY

Vul: None

NORTH (D)
♠ A 4 3 2
♡ A K J 9 7
◇ K 3
♣ 8

WEST
♠ Q 9 8 6
♡ 8 4 3
◇ 7 4
♣ A 10 9 3

EAST
♠ –
♡ 10 5 2
◇ 10 9 8 5 2
♣ 7 6 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 10 7 5
♡ Q 6
◇ A J 6
♣ K Q J

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♡	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 N.T.	Pass
5 ♡	Pass	6 ♠	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	6 N.T.	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Redbl.	All Pass

Opening lead: ♡ 3

In spite of the 18-19 point value of South's hand (counting extra for his heart queen and doubleton) there was no need to respond with more than a one-spade bid—especially since his hand included only one ace.

One of the costliest and most misguided doubles of all time occurred when this deal was played in a team match some years ago. West had no reason to be certain of defeating the original spade contract, as North might easily have held the ace-jack-ten of spades, but at least the odds were heavily in favor of this contract being set. When greed and poor judgment gave South opportunity to reconsider, he retired to no-trump, and added insult to injury by redoubling this final contract.

There was no play to the hand. After conceding the club ace, South found twelve top tricks: two spades, five hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

West, according to latest reports, has since taken up stamp collecting—a change of avocation which meets with West's entire approval.

With North-South vulnerable, South opens the bidding with one heart, and North responds one spade. South holds: S. 9 5 H. K Q J 6 D. A K 9 2 C. A J 4.

What should he rebid? For answer, see tomorrow's column.

BEGINNING NEXT WEEK: The 16 hands played in the 1959 Intercollegiate championship will be published and discussed in the "Winning Contract" bridge column by Howard Schenken and Richard L. Frey.

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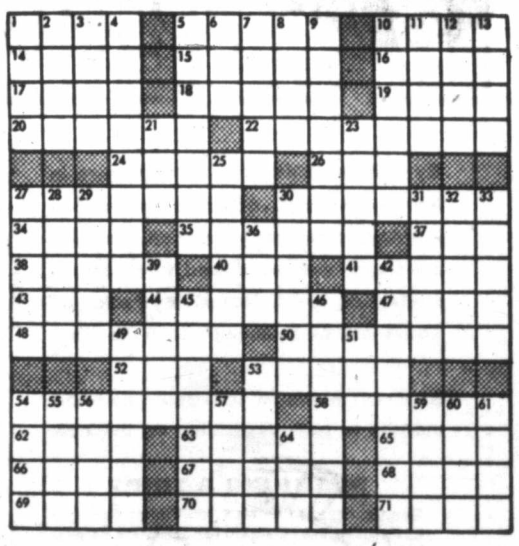
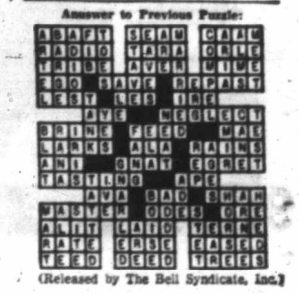
The Daily Cross-Word Puzzle . . .



ACROSS
1. Central male character.
5. Electric catfish (pl.).
10. Goddess of discord.
14. A tip-toe.
15. Mischa ....., violinist.
16. Sandhill.
17. To walk.
18. Depart.
19. Roman road.
20. Word of promise.
22. Looks for.
24. Ken....., of New York Knickerbockers.
26. Outfit of tools.
27. Placate.
30. Felt through the senses.
34. Former heavyweight champ.
35. African antelopes.
37. Thing in law.
38. Top military officials.
40. Anger.
41. Merits.
43. Beast of burden.
44. Go at certain gait.
47. Mislay.
48. Slow percolation.
50. Restored to freshness.
52. Collection of facts.
53. Compound ether.
54. Sloping.
58. Speaks.
62. Pursue game.
63. River of W. Africa.
65. Man's name.
66. Sea eagle.
67. Line a well with stone.
68. Girl's name.
69. Devoid of life.
70. Civil wrongs.
71. Command to horse (pl.).

DOWN
1. Fastener.
2. Girl's name.
3. Whale oil cask.
4. One who contests granting of a patent (pl.).
5. Let go.
6. Beverage.
7. Collect into a heap.
8. Man's nickname.
9. Move furtively.
10. Proclamations.
11. Home-run king.
12. Arrow poison.
13. Weight of India (pl.).
21. Meadow.
23. Wash in clear water.
25. Cover inner surface of again.
27. Uncle of Mohammed.
28. Analyze grammatically.
29. Edible seed (collective plural).
30. Scoffs.
31. Shot from bow.
32. Taut.
33. Ancient chariot of Briton.
36. Skill.
39. Meagre.
42. Putting on guard.
45. Opposite to.
46. Comes back.
49. Breathed in quick gasps.
51. Seine.
53. Kind of moth.
54. Crude shelter.
55. Entice.
56. Coin of India.
57. Climbing fern used in basketry.
59. Cry of the Bacchanals.
60. Unusual.
61. Nahoor sheep (pl.).
64. Consume.

Answer to Previous Puzzle:



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